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Richard A. Elliott
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Environmental Remediation


1186166 - R8 SDMS

December 5, 1996

Wayne Webster
#7 Impala South
Athens, Texas 75751

Dear Wayne:

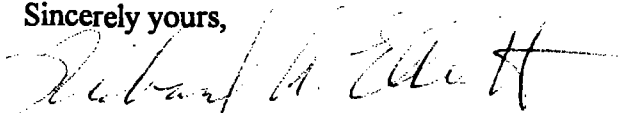
Enclosed is a copy of "Characterization of and Treatment Recommendations for the St. Louis Adit Drainage and Associated Settling Ponds in Rico, Colorado", by Kathleen S. Paser. This report is an independent study done by Ms. Paser as a graduate student at the Colorado School of Mines.

ARCO does not endorse any of the conclusions or recommendations in Ms. Paser's thesis. ARCO's interpretations, based on data in this and previous studies, lead to several conclusions different from those reached by Ms. Paser.

There are a number of issues raised by the report that you should be aware of. For example, Paser has concluded that the ponds could fill up in as little as four years, and that 40 per cent of their inflow is being lost through uncontrolled seepage. There are also some discrepancies between Paser's thesis and previous studies as well as very limited discussion of potential alternatives. You should review the report in detail in order to understand the areas of concern raised by the study.

If we can be of help in better understanding the data and facilitating a plan of action with the regulators, (who are receiving a copy of Paser's thesis), please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,



Richard A. Elliott
Project Manager

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